



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leffingwell and City Council Members

FROM: Jim Smith, Executive Director  
Aviation Department

DATE: November 8, 2012

SUBJECT: Temporary Helistops

The City of Austin Department of Aviation has completed its evaluation of permit applications for temporary helistops located at 901 S. MoPac and 300 S. Congress Ave. It has been determined that the applications are in compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 13-1-181 of the Code of the City of Austin. The Aviation Department worked with the Federal Aviation Administration, building owners, and other City departments to ensure minimal impact to citizens. As such, permits to operate a temporary helistop at the two sites have been approved with the following conditions/modifications to original permit requests.

- The sites operating hours will be 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (November 16, 17 and 18). This is a reduction from the requested operating hours of 6:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. The practical effect of reducing the hours of operation affects Sunday's operation which represents a reduction of 57% of proposed operations at the S. Mopac site and 71% reduction of proposed operations at 300 S. Congress Avenue. As approved this would allow 46 operations at S. Mopac and 20 operations at S. Congress to occur on Sunday.
- Pilots are requested to use best practices for noise abatement, including but not limited to, the use of a Fly Friendly Corridor to avoid flights over residential areas when possible.
- To ensure the safety of both passengers and flight crew, the City will allow use of the sites for training purposes prior to Nov. 16, 2012 during normal business hours.
- The permits are not eligible for extension or renewal.

The City historically has issued temporary helistop permits associated with special events. As an event of this size and type are new to Austin, it is clear that the current processes need modifications as we move forward. To ensure we have better information to utilize as we modify our processes, the operations of these temporary helistops will be monitored and evaluated. This will include installing noise monitoring equipment near the Mopac site. This monitoring and evaluation will provide a better understanding of the impact to surrounding areas.

xc:     Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
         Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager